



Declaring Independence: The Beginning of the End of the Two-Party System

Douglas Schoen

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- A 2006 survey revealed that two thirds of Americans consider themselves “dissatisfied with the way things are going in the U.S.”
- In recent polls, 60 to 80 percent of registered voters say they want an independent presidential candidate.
- Independent voters now constitute the largest segment of the American electorate.

America is at a political crossroads. We are growing alienated from the two major parties, which are dominated by ideologues and offer simplistic solutions, with candidates who think only in terms of how to frame issues—often irrelevant “hot-button” issues—in order to get elected. Meanwhile, voters tend to crave real solutions to the real problems we face—energy independence, affordable health care, the environment, jobs, sustainable national security. And increasingly those voters want change and they want it now, yearning for leaders who understand the tough problems, confront them head-on, and can offer practical solutions without kowtowing to lockstep partisan interests.

A behind-the-scenes force in American politics for more than thirty years who has worked with, among others, Ed Koch, Jon Corzine, and Michael Bloomberg, political consultant Douglas E. Schoen now makes a bold argument: that the 2008 presidential election offers an unprecedented opportunity for the right third-party ticket. In *Declaring Independence*, Schoen discusses major trends—voter dissatisfaction, lengthening campaign seasons, networking and fund-raising on the Internet, demographic shifts, fundamental changes in how Americans view their leaders—that are opening the door to more independent candidates and radically transforming how all candidates present themselves to the electorate and citizenry.

The numbers don't lie: We are a nation of political moderates who want smart, workable solutions to our serious problems. Largely as a result of media attention, the current cynical and dysfunctional political system divides us into red and blue Americas—and in turn makes government less responsive, efficient, and effective. Americans want to see results; they don't care whether those results come from Republicans or Democrats or people outside the two old-school parties. This is the first major book to study and analyze the large-scale trends and minor developments that could pave the way to a successful third-party presidential candidacy. Clearheaded, optimistic, and filled with incisive commentary from a respected authority on campaign politics, *Declaring Independence* offers a cogent glimpse at a transformed near future of American politics and government.

Advance praise for *Declaring Independence*

“The two-party system in America is breaking down, and Doug Schoen's new book, *Declaring Independence*, explains why. This is an in-depth look at why the American people are so fed up with partisanship, and where we, as a nation, go from here.”

—Michael R. Bloomberg, mayor of New York City

“It's Independents' Day in America, and Doug Schoen works the numbers in this persuasive book to prove that anxious moderates can do more than swing elections. They are poised to smash the two-party system

and give us an independent president as early as this year.”

–Jonathan Alter, senior editor, *Newsweek*, author of *The Defining Moment*

“Aptly titled, *Declaring Independence* is a convincing exploration by a learned observer of the forces propelling—and the urgent need for—political reform.”

–Bob Kerrey, former Nebraska senator and governor, president, the New School

From the Hardcover edition.

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From reader reviews:

James Batts:

As people who live in often the modest era should be revise about what going on or info even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era which can be always change and progress. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by studying books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which one you should start with. This Declaring Independence: The Beginning of the End of the Two-Party System is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Jimmy Miller:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity that's look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the whole day to reading a book. The book Declaring Independence: The Beginning of the End of the Two-Party System it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. We were holding enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not to fund but this book provides high quality.

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